

REMARKS

Applicants' remarks, below, are preceded by quotations of the related comments of the Examiner, in small, boldface type.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. **Claims 1, 3-10, 25-32 are allowed.**

Applicants acknowledge Examiner's conclusion that claims 1, 3-10 and 25-32 are allowable.

2. **The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior art fails to show a Plurality of wedges, each disposed within one of the plurality of gaps and having an upper edge and a lower edge, the lower edge configured to mechanically engage the outer surface of the inner support tube; and a plurality of cross support members positioned over the plurality of spaced winding and positioned perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the stator coil assembly, each of the cross support members having a first edge configured to mechanically engage the upper edge of the plurality of wedges wherein, at least two of the plurality of cross support members are spaced apart to defined a channel oriented perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the radial opening.**

Applicants agree that the limitations recited in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are not taught or suggested by the art of record, and that the allowed independent claims are distinguished from the cited prior art for at least the reasons stated in the Reasons for Allowance, which are sufficient for allowance of all claims. Applicants do not concede that the stated reasons are the only grounds for patentability of the allowed claims, that the limitations excluded from the Reasons for Allowance are taught or suggested by the art of record, or that all of the limitations are necessary for patentability of the allowed claims or other claims directed to the disclosed subject matter.

Priority

3. **It is noted that this application appears to claim subject matter disclosed in prior Application No. 10061103, filed 2/12/2002. A reference to the prior application must be inserted as the first sentence of the specification of this application or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.76), if applicant intends to rely on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or 120. See 37 CFR 1.78(a)...**

Application No. 10/061,103 is a divisional of this application and was filed on 2/12/2002, which is after the filing date of this application (8/4/2000). Therefore, no such priority claim is necessary in this application.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1 objected to because of the following informalities: grammatical errors.

Appropriate correction is required.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to correct this grammatical error.

5. Claim 1 line 2 "a longitudinal axis positioned at the center of the radial opening "

While claim 1 does not include the above-quoted text, claim 33 does. Applicants have amended claim 33 to correct this grammatical error identified by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. Claim 1 recites the limitation "at least one channel "in line 10. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

While claim 1 does not include the above-quoted text, claim 33 does. Applicants have amended claim 33 to correct the antecedent basis issue identified by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. Claims 33, -34,36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wintermute (5006748).

9. Wintermute discloses in fig. 3 a stator mounting arrangement comprising: a plurality of cross support members (54) positioned perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the radial opening, each of the cross support members having a first edge mechanically engaged (58) to the motor stator assembly and a second edge (62) mechanically engaged to the outer housing (16), wherein at least two of the plurality of cross support members are spaced apart to define a channel oriented (iron laminated) perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the radial opening and magnetic material 34 (winding) disposed within at least one channel (fig. 3).

Amended claim 33 requires, among other things, a plurality of cross support members that "each surrounding the motor stator assembly and positioned perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the radial opening", a limitation not taught or suggested by Wintermute. Rather, Wintermute shows multiple wedge-like extensions (see element 54 in FIG. 2 shown below) that are circumferentially distributed in corresponding pairs:

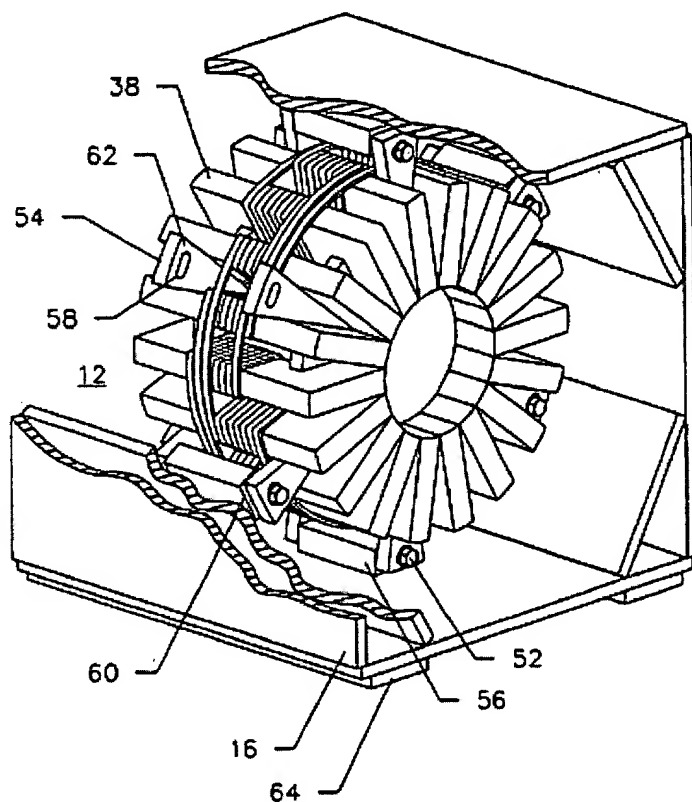


FIG. 2

As clearly illustrated in these figures, none of the wedge-like extensions taught in Wintermute surround the motor stator assembly as required by the claims. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 33 is patentable over Wintermute for at least these reasons. Claims 34, 35, 36 and 37 depend from claim 33, and, therefore, are patentable for at least the same reasons.

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Page : 11 of 11

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It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No excess claim fees or Extension of Time fee, are required. However, please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney Docket No. 05770-124001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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